



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS STUDENT CHARGED WITH HACKING**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that Christopher Andrew Phillips, a University of Texas student, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Austin for accessing protected computers without authorization, a.k.a. computer hacking, and attempting to defraud in connection with computers.

The indictment alleges that in January, February and April 2002, Phillips attempted to breach the security of hundreds of computer systems but was detected by the University. Each time the University warned him not to further attempt to breach the security of the computer systems. It further alleges that in October and November 2002, Phillips downloaded biographical data from an Internet Web site providing genealogical information of individuals born during the years 1940 to 1984 including name, date of birth, gender, father's name, mother's maiden name, and place of birth of the ten most populous Texas counties.

The indictment further alleges that on January 30, 2003, Phillips created a computer program to breach the security of or "hack into" a protected University of Texas computer system that he did not have authorized access to in order to discover the names and social security numbers of individuals in the UT computer system. He further used this computer program to steal over 37,000 names and social security numbers of individuals in the University of Texas computers via the TXCLASS system. In doing this, he caused massive failures that shut down the TXCLASS computer system. As a result of these damages, the University suffered losses of approximately \$122,000 and another \$45,000 in losses incurred by UT to warn individuals whose names and social security numbers were stolen by Phillips about potential identity theft.

This case is being investigated by the United States Secret Service and the University of Texas ITS Information Security Office. Assistant United States Attorney Mark Roomberg is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

**An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.**

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